(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) No proposal has so far been received from the Government of Orissa for the development of infrastructure in the slums of Cuttack under IHSDP.

(c) and (d) The Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) component under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) aims to address the problems of housing and basic services to the urban poor, including slum-dwellers in 63 select cities in the country by providing Additional Central Assistance. These include Bhubaneswar and Puri in Orissa. For each of these cities, a project has been sanctioned under the BSUP Scheme. Other cities and towns, as prioritized by State Governments, are eligible under the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). Both BSUP and IHSDP are under implementation since December, 2005. Additional Central Assistance is released under BSUP and IHSDP based on Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) submitted by State Level Nodal Agencies conforming to the scheme guidelines for the consideration of the Sanctioning Committee at the Central level.

World Bank loan for Panchayati Raj System

*8. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether the efforts of his Ministry to get a Rs. 4,000 crore loan from the World Bank to strengthen the Panchayati Raj System in the country have succeeded;

(b) if so, the details of the plan charted out to utilize the above loan;

(c) whether any emphasis would be given in the plan for development of Panchayati Raj System in backward districts, particularly in Andhra Pradesh;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) whether the Ministry has realized the importance of taking 'Block' as a unit instead of the existing parameter of taking 'District' as a unit, as a result of which even if 25% of the district is backward it is not able to reap the benefit of schemes and remaining backward for a longer time?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) In order to operatiohalize the programme of action developed by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj in consultation with the State Governments for strengthening of Panchayati Raj, the Ministry has proposed seeking funding from the World Bank for the following purposes:

(i) Funding and technical support for the Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme (PEAIS):

The PEAIS is sought to be implemented across the country as national programme through which States that are able to show better performance in implementing Panchayati Raj and Panchayats at all levels that are able to show better performance in practicing transparency and being accountable to citizens, would receive incentive grants. The performance of the States and Panchayats would be independently assessed using a devolution index developed for the purpose. The PEAIS is envisaged to be a Government of India led funding support, to which the World Bank and other donors could provide supplementation with additional funds. World Bank and donor funding will be subsidiary to GOI funding. The PEAIS was approved for 2006-07 as a Central Sector Scheme for the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, with a total allocation of

Rs. 10 crore. A proposal for enlarging the financial allocation of the existing PEAIS through obtaining funds from Central budgetary resources as well as the World Bank is under preparation.

(ii) States-specific budgetary and technical support for institutional strengthening and capacity building of Panchayats:

The Ministry of Panchayati Raj is lending its support to proposals sent by States for fully implementing the empowerment and strengthening of Panchayats. A State specific project for Panchayat strengthening is under implementation is Kamataka. Proposals received from Kerala, West Bengal and Bihar have been formally forwarded to the World Bank and details of such State-specific projects for these States are now being worked out.

(iii) Technical Assistance:

The Ministry has obtained approval for securing technical assistance from the World Bank, for Panchayati Raj related institutional reforms and action research.

(c) and (d) The PEAIS scheme envisages that all States, including Andhra Pradesh would be eligible to receive funds under it, if it shows progress in respect of the criteria stated out in the devolution index.

(e) Under the Backward Regions Grant Fund, the district has been taken as the unit for implementation. The scheme guidelines stipulate that each State will indicate the normative formula that will be used for the allocation of BRGF funds to each Panchayat and ULB (excluding capital cities/cities with a population of 1 million). The components that go into the formula may include any index that is prepared and accepted within the State which reflects backwardness or level of development. Therefore there is flexibility in the Scheme for provision of more funds to backward blocks within a backward district, under the BRGF. The question of changing the unit from the District to the Block is noted for further consideration.

Encroachment of forest land by land mafia

*9. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the guidelines fixed by Government to reclaim the forest land which has been illegally encroached by the land mafia;

(b) whether it is a fact that a large chunk of Government forest land was illegally encroached by land mafia in Himachal Pradesh particularly in Jubbal-Katkhai, Rohm and Chirgaon Tehsil; and

(c) if so, the action being contemplated by Government in this regard against the land mafia and concerned officials who are involved in this nexus with them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) The Ministry of Environment and Forests have not received information on any organized encroachment on forest land. However, encroachment on forest land by individuals has taken place at different times for cultivation and other purposes. We had issued detailed guidelines *vide* this Ministry's letter No. 30-1/90-FP dated 18.09.1990 for regularization of pre-1980 eligible encroachments.

(b) and (c) The information is being collected from the concerned State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House.